

PATENT**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated October 19, 2005 has been received and considered. In this response, claims 1 and 5 have been amended and claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Allowability of Claims 2-5 and 13-24

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 13-24 are allowed and claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the interest of advancing the present application to issuance, claim 1 has been amended to include the features recited by allowable claim 4 and claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 5, as well as dependent claims 2, 3, and 6-12, are allowable at least for the same reasons indicated by the Office Action.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1 and 6-12

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kohno (U.S. Patent No. 5,703,820). As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to recite the additional features recited by allowable claim 4, thereby obviating this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection therefore is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

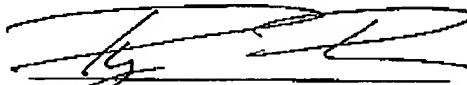
The Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

25 November 2005
Date


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